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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 APRIL 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 16 to 31 March 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

I request your intervention with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These acts continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused
16-31 March 1998

1. In the northern region 118 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 704 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Hamzah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr, Qal'at Sukkar, Safwan and Umm Qasr.

3. United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace on eight occasions.

4. At 1125 hours and 1300 hours on 19 March 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the Umm Qasr and Faw areas.

5. At 0950, 1130, 1215, 1255, 1305, 1341, 1420, 1503 and 1830 hours on 20 and 21 March 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the Umm Qasr area.

6. At 1045, 1203, 1217 and 1540 hours on 23 March 1998, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the Umm Qasr area.

7. At 1728 hours on 31 March 1998, a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Batha'.